

THE KEYSTONE 1899

LOUISA B. POPPENHEIM,
Editor and Proprietor.

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TO WOMAN'S WORK.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Official Organ for the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

Official Organ for the South Carolina Audubon Society.

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GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1900.

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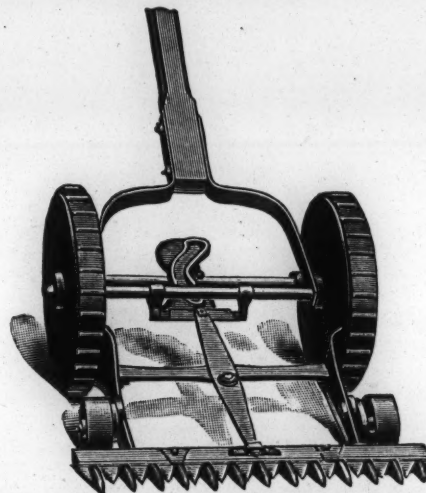


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Editorial.

November.

WHO first comes to this world below,
With drear November's fog and snow,
Should prize the topaz's amber hue
Emblem of friends and lovers true.

IN these November days our thoughts turn to the holiday of the month, and Thanksgiving with all its attendant celebrations and memories arises before our mental vision. One of the pleasures always looked forward to in connection with this holiday is the renewal of family ties and the gathering of those near and dear to one under the paternal roof tree. The family is so natural a condition to many of us that we seldom stop to analyze what it means and what we owe to it in the development of our spiritual and material life. We are told that Loyalty to King and Country are noble traits to be praised in song and story, forgetting that back behind these emblems of law and order stands their corner stone, that which makes them a possibility, in other words, "the family."

Wm. Dewitt Hyde in the July Atlantic Monthly, says: "loyalty to the family involves the recognition that the family is prior to the individual. Into the family we are born; by our parents we are trained and reared; from parents, brothers and sisters we first learn life's most precious lessons of love. The loyal son must ever hold the family as a dearer and better self."

There is no more powerful factor in the strength of the Scotchman's hold on the attention of the world than his "clannishness" as it is called. It isn't the mere fact that he loves his kith and kin and stands by them through weal and woe that makes the Scotchman, the valuable citizen of the world that he is, but it is the strength of character the sincere conscientious devotion to duty and those claims on him which he recognizes as imperative; in other words, it is his ideal of responsibility, which is the germ of the Scotchman's greatness. Loyalty is not impaired by the value of the object to which it is rendered; it is a subjective quality found in ourselves. We have it in our power to create it in our souls and to develop it in our natures. We do not require that our country be the largest, the greatest, the most advanced in the world to render loyal service to her in season or out of season. We give her that as her due because of her dependence upon us as her citizens for what she is. Just so with the family; the mutual interdependence is so subtle that there can be no line of demarcation. Showing where the individual begins and the family ends. We are part and parcel of the whole and like good citizens we must rise and fall together.

With these thoughts in mind will not our hearts grow warmer and our glance be tenderer when we meet again in the home castle? Will we not realize more fully that this bond created by an all wise providence is one which should be held in reverence and cherished with loyalty.

THE Society of United States Daughters 1812 is branching out each month.

The State Society of Vermont was officially organized in June 1901 while one in Georgia was officially organized the same month, Miss Virginia L. Arnold being appointed State President.

In South Carolina Mrs. Thos. Taylor, of Columbia, has been commissioned as President for that State.

THAT man only is unconquerable, who cannot be vanquished by the Inevitable.—Dr. Bradford.

THIS issue of the Keystone contains a report from the Chairman of the Travelling Library Department of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. This Department carries the most practical work of the Federation and has been developed with remarkable success. In its very inception the Federation declared itself in sympathy with this work and at its organization took up as its initial work of philanthropy "Travelling Libraries." What has been accomplished in a material way is in small proportion however in comparison with the forces for good which have been set in operations by the inspiration and aspirations developed by the work.

The different Women's Clubs of Chicago have united in founding a school of domestic Arts and Science. Through the kindness of Mrs. P. D. Armour the entire equipment of the department of domestic science, at the Art Institute, will be used in the new school.

The object of this school is to teach scientific house-keeping and to uplift domestic service. There will be instruction in sewing, dressmaking, cooking, home nursing and hygienic household problems.

WE have possibly all heard of Boston's famous 20th Century Club organized in January 1894. It comes nearer the ideal club in many respects than any organization bearing the name in our country.

Its membership embraces four hundred and fifty men and women, who are united in a spirit of simplicity, democracy and altruism.

Edward Everett Hale, Prof. John Fiske, Ross Turner, the artist, and William Ordway Partridge, the sculptor were among its founders.

Its Saturday luncheons at fifty cents per cover provide a meeting place for many brilliant men, for an applicant for membership in this club must pass on "what have you done."

Once a month the women members join in the Saturday luncheon and on these occasions the post prandial cigars are omitted.

The formal meetings of the Club take place on alternate Wednesday evenings, when an elaborate program is carried out.

The club has practical working departments in Civics, Art and Education and it is a powerful factor for good in the most progressive reform movements of the times.

THE annual meeting of the association of Collegiate Alumnae met in Buffalo, October 24th, 25th and 26th by the invitation of the Western New York Branch. The Twentieth Century Club gave them a luncheon while the board of women managers of the Pan-American Exposition entertained them at a tea in the Women's Building on the Exposition grounds.

MISS MARIA R. AUDUBON, granddaughter of the great naturalist, took a prominent part in the recent public exercises at Shannonsville, Pa., when the name of that village was changed to Audubon. It was in this little village that Audubon first began his nature study, and his writings dwelt much on the natural beauties of the place.

THE Arkansas Federation Year Book for 1901-1902 appears in a unique form 3½x8½ is most attractively printed with large head lines. The committee reports show that these 2700 Club-women are doing good work in many directions. The department of Household Economies is helped by means of a Loan Fund. Instead of an official organ this Federation has one column in the Twice-a-Week Little Rock Democrat, which is supported by each club contributing 4 subscribers every year.

THIRTEEN young women are employed as tellers in the Savings' department of the Royal Trust Company's Bank of Chicago. They get the same pay as the men who filled the positions before them and the head of the department says that they do the work of Savings' department better than the men did.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS,

"Animis opibusque parati."

This Department is official, and will be continued monthly.
Official news and calls of Federation Committees printed here.

List of Officers.

President—Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, Charleston, S. C., (31 Meeting Street.)
First Vice-President—Mrs. A. E. Smith, Rock Hill, S. C.
Second Vice-President—Mrs. John G. White, Chester, S. C.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. C. C. Featherstone, Laurens, S. C.
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. L. J. Blake, Spartanburg, S. C.
Treasurer—Mrs. Mary P. Gridley, Greenville, S. C.
Auditor—Mrs. L. D. Childs, Columbia, S. C.

THE attention of all the Club-women is called to The Students Reference Bureau which is carried on under the management of the Chicago Woman's Club, an advertisement of which appears in our columns.

Club-women in nearly every state are making use of the Bureau, either to furnish them with material for writing their papers, or for programs for the year's study etc. The data usually covers from 10 to 20 written pages and is drawn from the best and latest sources. The Bureau receives many grateful letters, and is doing an invaluable service to Club-women.

Programs are very complete, and furnish not only topics for papers but questions to aid study on each subject. They have a number on hand that they can furnish for this year's use such as "French History and Literature," "English History and Literature," "Grecian Sculpture," etc. They have many applications for written papers which are acknowledged as the work of the Bureau and *not read as original*.

DEAR "KEYSTONE."

The Auf Wiedersehen Club of Edgefield, S. C., has not been idle all the months since her representative met yours in the Mountain City in April.

During the Spring and Summer months by patient efforts, a small sum was slowly accumulated by a faithful few, and on Friday the 4th of October the result of our labor was shown by the opening of the public library of Edgefield. Although our books barely number 200; they are well chosen, many of them are the latest works of the best authors, beautifully and artistically bound and illustrated.

We have made it as near a free library as possible. One buys a card for 10 cts and is entitled thereby to read five books, if one keeps a book over two weeks he pays 2 cts a day for the privilege.

Our little library is very attractive and pleasant, each member of the club contributed something towards its comfort and adornment. Our table is covered with new magazines every month, making an hour pass very pleasantly to any one wishing to rest and read.

Our club is small but earnest. Although not yet one year old, we have a good Traveling Library, and now have made such a good beginning for a local Library, which we hope will grow and strengthen as years pass.

Do not think we are boasting. We are simply telling other little clubs what can be done.

Edgefield, S. C.

With best wishes,
MRS. J. B. H.

This column acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Timrod Circle's program for 1901-1902. It is attractively bound in apple green and gold and contains merely the "Outline of the Study" and the constitution. The subject "Italian Cities" is most carefully arranged and shows that the members of this club are real students. The Art, Music, Literature and History of these cities make a delightful year's course.

THE Texas Federation has just taken up Travelling Library work and have collected 2 Libraries one on Texas History and one on United States History.

THE President of the South Carolina Federation has received invitations to the following State Conventions of Women's Clubs:

Fifth Annual Meeting of North Dakota Federation at Mayville, Sept. 11 and 12.

Ninth Annual Meeting of New York Federation at Buffalo, Oct. 8, 9, and 10.

Pennsylvania Federation at Reading, Oct. 15, 16 and 17.

Sixth Annual Meeting of Vermont Federation at Morrisville, Oct. 16, 17.

Maine Federation at Biddeford, Oct. 16, 17, 18.

Second Annual Meeting of Indiana Federation at Auburn, Oct. 23 24, 25.

New Jersey Federation at Orange Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Bookbinding.

Miss Ellen G. Starr, of Hull House, Chicago, allows us to quote from an article entitled "A Note of Explanation," contributed by her to the "Hull House Bulletin."

"It became necessary for me, if I were to act as I believed, to learn to make something worth making, and to do it as thoroughly well as I was able. I went to Mr. Cobden-Sanderson, in London, the man who, in my judgment does the most beautiful bookbinding in the world at this time, and was so fortunate as to be received as his pupil, and worked under him for fifteen months, six hours or more every day, except a half holiday on Saturday.

"I earn my living by binding and ornamenting a few books as well as I can do it, and by teaching three private pupils as well as I can teach them. I cannot take a pupil for less than a year nor more than three pupils at a time, though more would like to learn."

A letter from Miss Starr contributes to our Report the following lines, which have important suggestion for those whose aim is to do the best work in bookbinding:

"There is some danger of the old and dignified craft of bookbinding becoming a modern 'fad.' Because it is not one of the great arts, acknowledged to require years of patient efforts, it is assumed to be something which can be learned in a few months.

The truth is that a year of constant work is the least time sufficient to master the craft, and there are but few competent teachers who are willing to take women as pupils. Mr. Cobden-Sanderson, of London, takes a few pupils, and one is indeed highly fortunate to be received by him. Several of his pupils will doubtless be ready and competent to take pupils in the near future, probably in New York or Chicago.

"Women are received by some French binders, but under disadvantages. It is possible, however, to get instructions in Paris. In tooling, the French technique is acknowledged to be best."

In the revival of the artist-artisan's work, with which the new century has come in, no art craft shows its influence more than that of hand bookbinding.

Two years ago Mr. Cobden-Sanderson, one of the greatest binders of the present day, said: "Women should do the best work in this craft, for they possess all the essential qualities of success—patience for detail, lightness of touch, and dexterous fingers." Women to-day are proving that he is right. There are at present in America a small number of women who are producing work which compares favorably with that of the best binders.

Two binderies, East and West, are already established where women may work at all the processes of this exacting craft, and where they may learn to bind a book with a perfection of detail which cannot fail to produce a satisfactory result.

Other successful workers are returning from their studios abroad, and soon hand bookbinding, which offers so large a field to women for skilled labor, will have its trained teachers and workshops in every city in our country.

FLORENCE FOOTE,
The Evelyn Nordhoff Bindery,
115 East 23d Street, New York.

The Flight of the Doves.

BY KATE LILLIE BLUE, MARION, S. C.

(Continued from October Keystone.)

"SEE these," she said smiling ruefully. "I will have enough by winter to paper my room. They are the slips that my doves have brought back in their bills. A careful reading will show you that in not one single, solitary instance was a story returned for 'lack of merit,' 'and they are all so sorry that one article is too long, another too short,' 'they lack space,' or they are 'overstocked,' and are 'not buying anything at present,' or it is 'not exactly suited to their publication.'"

"Mabelle," the young man cried passionately, starting to her side, "I cannot bear that you should spend your youth this way. Give up this hard struggle for literary fame, dearest for my sake. Will you not?"

She gave him a loving tender glance from her soulful grey eyes, but shook her head as she replied:

"Rupert, I cannot give it up. It is my life, I will struggle on until I win success, or until—death ends the strife."

He put his arms around her and drew her bright head to his breast.

"Dearest, don't talk that way. You are sure to be successful after a while. Just don't work so hard. Get about more. Marry me this fall, and just write when you feel like it. Why wouldn't you go with me this afternoon, Mabelle?" "he asked tenderly. She laughed up into his face with her old gaiety. "Because forsooth, I did not think this costume suitable, and it is the best I have."

"And yet Vivienne is one of the best dressed girls in town. She went to the picnic arrayed in one of those soft, sweet, delicate looking dresses that would suit you so well. Why is such a difference made between you? It is most unjust!"

"You are unjust, dear Rupert. You know that father is not rich, but he makes us the same allowance for dress, an allowance upon which my sister manages to outdress all the other girls; a sum which I manage to spend—that I throw away, perhaps—in the pursuit of my chief object. Stationery, stamps, and all the necessities of a literary life cost more than the uninitiated might suppose, and that is why I dress no better. My family often remonstrate with me, and frequently make me aware of their belief that I will not attain my object, but in spite of their opinions, in spite of discouragements and obstacles, I work steadily on, because I cannot help it; impelled by some inward force that I do not understand, that I cannot arrange, I persist in my aim."

She reached one hand up to caress the young man's cheek, and laughed again, though there was moisture in her eyes.

"And if success should come, Rupert dear, it would surprise me so that I hardly think I could ever write another line."

"Look here, Mabelle, if I buy a newspaper, will you write for it on a salary?"

"You foolish boy, what an idea!"

"I have to go into some kind of business this winter. You know I have plenty of capital, and I don't think it a foolish idea at all. You can marry me then, and we will be partners."

"No, Rupert," she said gently but decidedly. "I must make some headway before I marry you. I must sell at least one manuscript. Now, if you don't mind, we will take a walk to the postoffice, and start the flock off again."

The golden summer passed away, and Mabelle's doves did not return, neither were they heard from, and she was beginning to fear for their safety, but as usual she kept her fear to herself. She saw a great deal of Rupert who had taught her to ride a bicycle, and together they took long rides into the country, where her shabby old blue serge did not attract so much attention. Those were halcyon days for her—for them both—for the exercise in the free summer air was bringing back the roses to her cheeks which close application to her desk had driven away.

It was giving both brain and body a healthy development and her naturally merry temperament re-asserted itself, making Rupert happy beyond words.

One day as they sat on the pine needles in the shadow of a

grove to rest, he said suddenly, "Mabelle, why don't you write our story? It might make a hit." She laughed merrily.

"Why, you dear old goose, there is no story to write. We have loved each other all our lives, and nobody ever had the slightest objection."

"There is no romance, no plot to it. If the course of true love ever did run smoothly, Rupert dear, it has been in our case. We have never had even the slightest misunderstanding."

"And yet," he said, softly, "it is so beautiful to me—our love—that it seems that it must affect others."

"Yes," she said, with a tender upward glance into his honest, manly face, "it is beautiful, far too beautiful to share with the public."

"You must remember that you promised to marry me when you sold your first story," he said as they mounted their wheels, and rode on.

"I never break a promise when the conditions are all filled," she cried gaily.

One September morning Rupert called for her, but not finding her ready, went to her little sanctum in search of her. She was standing by her desk, with a strange expression on her face, looking down at a pile of envelopes heaped on the top of it. When she saw him, she ran forward and threw herself into his arms, sobbing wildly.

"My darling," he cried in distress, "what is it? Don't cry, love; come, tell me what is wrong."

"Oh, Rupert," she said, hysterically, "there is nothing wrong. I can't help crying because it is all right at last."

"For Heaven's sake, Mabelle, tell me what is the matter," he entreated, his mystification deepening. She led him to the desk, and between smiles and tears, pointed tragically to the letters. "Those blessed doves, Rupert, not one of them returned. All of them found places to rest their weary feet, and each one has sent back an olive leaf in the shape of a check. I did not realize under what a tremendous tension I was laboring until my hopes were all fulfilled at the same time," she went on more quietly as she assorted the checks, "then I thought I could not stand it. It is not on account of the money you understand, but because it is an evidence that my labor has not been in vain."

"And how about my labor? Am I to be rewarded too for my patience? Remember your promise, dear."

"I have no desire to forget it, Rupert."

And the curtain fell. THE END.

A Thanksgiving Dinner.

AS this is a special holiday, all housekeepers expect to have things a little more elaborate, and as a suggestion for the busy woman we offer the following:

A good color scheme for this occasion is yellow. Use your gold and white china, and make candelabra shades out of yellow tissue paper. For your centre piece, get a large ripe pumpkin and hollow it out; then scallop or point the edges and fill it with pretty fruit, red apples, bright pears, oranges and grapes. Put in a few slightly touched autumn leaves, and make a circle of these leaves around the bottom of the pumpkin.

For dinner cards use small sample cards with an autumn leaf pasted in one corner. In inviting your guests, remember that an ideal dinner party must "never be less than the graces nor more than the muses."

If you are not able to get oysters on the half shell, use caviar on toast as a substitute. For a long dinner use a clear coup, consomme. A good sauce for your boiled fish, is sauce tartare, which is simply mayonaisse with jerkins cut up in it.

Serve a fruit punch with your turkey, as it comes in to lighten up this hearty course.

A light salad, such as tomato or celery, is preferable, and Philadelphia Cream Cheese makes a dainty accessory.

For dessert, a Parfait of some kind along with the regulation mince pie, or a montrose pudding, if you can master this delicate dainty.

After the coffee, pass around cream peppermints, which take the place of crème de menthe.

Library Work in South Carolina.

A short while ago in one of the leading Dailies of our great State, an editorial appeared that created quite a ripple of amusement among the large number of Club-women in South Carolina who for four years have been engaged through the State Federation in fostering library interests in all its phases. The results being of such importance that it causes one to marvel why an editor would be willing to put himself on record as ignorant of a work of so great an importance and to publish to the outside world that there was literally a dearth of library interest in South Carolina. All at once he appears to have been awakened by an article that he read in *The Outlook* for May on how easy it is to establish libraries. He gives a column or more to the subject, and closes by advising the women of South Carolina to take up the work, especially that of travelling libraries. Now we own that the advice given was good, even though it comes four years late, and the methods advocated are useless because others more productive of results have already been put into practice. Quite a number of years ago some of us were reading articles in the *Forum*, *Outlook* and other publications that inspired us to follow the example of Wisconsin and other states whose library accomplishments are renowned, but the inspiration did not materialize until the organization of the State Federation was formed. Then and there at our first convention, the little germ which had been lying dormant, only waiting for a quickening touch, burst into life and the work began. After careful investigation in 1897 only four public libraries were to be found in South Carolina, namely: Charleston, Columbia, Spartanburg, Greenville. In 1901 the number reaches eighteen, the following places having organized during the past four years, Chester, Union, Camden, Marion, Florence, Orangeburg, Laurens, Edgefield, Aiken, Anderson, White Rock, (Oconee County), Seneca and Summerville. The town of Greenwood has a Library Association well underway and its success is assured. We do not claim that the establishment of all of these libraries have been done through the Federation, but we can say that in almost every instance the work has been begun and largely carried on by women. So much for our local libraries.

Unlike the other departments of our Federation work, the Travelling Library Committee finds the summer season not one of rest, its duties and programmes laid on the shelf, but with the ever active demand for books from our people on the farms, our duties increase as the days lengthen; thus those of you who through your earnest efforts collected the little libraries during last winter, may know that your labor finds a rich fruition as these silent messengers go into the humble home and remind the reader that the great heart of humanity is open to them, that a hand, a lighted torch, is held out to them from one end of the State to the other. Well may the Club-women of South Carolina be proud of the work in this line as work whose importance cannot be measured nor its influence gainsaid. During the past year the number of cases were increased from 13 to 48, an increase of 35 as a result of one year's work.

The Clubs sending out libraries are as follows:

- Spartanburg—Over The Teacups Club, 7.
- Greenville—Neblet Library, 11; Thursday Club, 2; Thursday Afternoon Club, 1.
- Seneca—Once-a-Week Club, 6.
- Walhalla—Paul Hayne Circle, 1.
- Union—Standard Club, 2.
- Edgefield—Auf Weidersehen Club, 1.
- Abbeville—Woman's Club, 1.
- Charleston—Century Club, 1; Civics Club, 1; S. C. Kindergarten Association, 1; Psychology Club, 1; Kelly Alumnae and Psychology Club, combined, 1; Memmenger Alumnae Association, 1. and a library sent out by the Federation consisting of books given by "Century Club" and a private individual which is in charge of the Travelling Library Department of the Seaboard Air Line Railway. A library given by the Lend-A-Hand Society of Boston has recently been received by the chairman of the committee and several libraries are promised by outsiders who are interested in this work.

Thus it may be seen that the earnest hearts and willing hands the Club-women of the State of South Carolina have succeeded in establishing a system of Travelling Libraries that extends from the Mountains to the Seaboard. Our distributing points are Seneca, Spartanburg, Chester and Charleston, a member of the State Committee being in charge at each of the places mentioned, who supervises and superintends the sending out of Libraries in her territory. It will be seen that every portion of the State is reached by this work. The little cases of Books find their way into remote homes and localities where books are desired but not obtainable. The success of this scheme we owe in a great measure to the generosity of the Southern Railway, who in response to our appeal for aid, accorded free transportation for the Libraries over the lines of road and furnished 24 cases for our books. Therefore the South Carolina Federation owes a debt of gratitude to this Corporation, to what extent, time alone can tell, for who can measure the length and breadth of its influence. In March 1900, twelve cases were obtained by the chairman through the influence of Mr. M. V. Richards, Chief Industrial Agent Southern Railway.

All of these cases are made of oak, with stout locks and handles, well suited for the purpose. In December 1900, this donation was duplicated, making in all 24 cases received up to date. The cases for the remaining Libraries were given by the Clubs sending them out. The number of books contained in a Library varies according to the success of the Club collecting them. Many of our cases contain 100 books, others contain 50, and one of our clubs, has only 25 books in its case at present. These books are supplemented by magazines, papers and other reading matter.

As chairman of this department, thereby having the opportunity for a close scrutiny of its influence, I am impelled to say that the work appeals to every woman who is imbued with the real club spirit, a spirit which means all for each and each for all. When every club in South Carolina sees fit to lend a hand in this broad philanthropy, then and not till then will we be able to meet the cry that comes, "send us books." Many of our clubs have fallen in line and are earnestly at work.

To summarize 45 stations have been established in South Carolina and supplied with reading; as near as we can estimate 2500 books have been sent out with an adequate number of magazines. It is a difficult matter to estimate the number of borrowers, as we have been unable to obtain full reports from the various clubs. Those coming under the supervision of the central committee will average 175 to 200 during the three months of a library.

Our work is no longer an experimental one, it is now beyond that stage, it must move forward. As I have said before we have 48 cases secured and at work; we must have triple that number to meet the calls that are coming in. Shall we prophesy that before time shall complete its cycle of another twelve months, that an adequate number of libraries will be in hand to meet these calls. I appeal to the women of the Federation. Let it be a long pull and a strong pull all together. If the Club-women of the Federation will vie with each other in sending in results of this great endeavor to the official committee, who will then be able to impart this progress to those desiring light upon the subject, we can mutually aid each other and those whom we are striving to benefit.

Let me emphasize one point, the efficiency of this work does not depend altogether upon the committee of the Federation. The individual clubs have their part to do, yea, I might say the individual member has her responsibility in the matter. By making careful and concise reports to the committee of the work attempted and accomplished, then we will see our work taking the form of an ever increasing circle that shall reach to the uttermost limits of our state.

LUDIE M. COLEMAN,
Chairman Travelling Library Committee
of S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs.

FIRMNESS of purpose is almost omnipotence.—Maria Mitchell.

An American Girl's Experiences as a Traveller in Japan.

KOBE, JAPAN, September 8th, 1901.

DEAR M——

* * * * *

I think none of us are very wild at leaving Japan. Some places I am sorry not to have staid longer, and others I greatly regret not visiting, yet, on the whole, I have had enough, and I get balky at the mere mention of another temple to see. I think I must be getting the oriental torpor, for I find it a frightful effort to drag one foot after the other, and sometimes almost too much to get in and out of my crickshaw. The shops are jolly good fun, and I am getting to be a regular Shylock at bargaining. My one fear is that I pay too much. Twice now I have gotten 50 per cent. off, and the second time I am dead sure I was trapped, for the man came down so easily. I shall offer one-third in the future. They assure you that the things cost that price and they are making a special reduction for you, and they stick to it and say, "I think you please buy this one" with the greatest ingenuousness and naiveté, and when you start to go and hold the money under their noses, they start to tumble, and by the time you get into your crickshaw they say, "you not give 22?" "no, 20?" then with a crest-fallen face they say, "all right" and wrap it up in a hurry for fear you will change your mind. "No have got" and "have got" seem to be Japanese-English expressions, and we have all adopted them—they don't talk pidgin English, but an article manufactured here. Everything is "honorable" or "august," even to candy and hot water, so that I feel like a barbarian using our simple English expressions. By the way, if you want a very entertaining book, read "The Real Chinaman," by Chester Holcombe, it is far from dry. The books I read on Japan cracked up the country wildly, and I would rather read nothing on these other countries than books that exaggerate their fascinations so and minimize their faults.

There is a fine field for philanthropists here, and if Dora were not so busy buying out the country, I think she might be induced to organize a society for supplying pocket handkerchiefs to the Japanese infants. Dr. W— has suggested it to her and it is certainly one crying for establishment all over the Empire. We have started it by leaving one of Enid's worn out ones by the roadside, and I can soon contribute two which are on their last legs. You would die to see these Japs riding old high wheeled bicycles in kimonos, clogs and derbies. They are enough to make a cat laugh. Most of these people don't trouble themselves overmuch with clothes; if they do put on more than loin clothes they are apt to leave the thing flying or else haul it up and pop it into their belts so that they are little troubled with clothes either above or below the waist. Even a fig leaf would be a boon to many, especially the children. Nothing is left to the imagination in Japanese life,—either in sight or sound. We spent one memorable night in a tea house seldom visited by foreigners and I assure you that I must have been looked in at or walked in upon at least twenty times during our stay of seven hours. There is nothing to do but grin and bear it as there are no locks on these sliding panels and anybody may walk in on you at any time they choose on any side of the room that happens to suit them, so there is no good facing your door for they are as likely to intrude behind you. I was waked up out of a sound sleep five times to find those people in my room fingering over every hair-pin, etc., that I possessed, and Dr. W— just told me in time to rescue my hat from being tried on. We went to Gifu to see the Cormorant fishing, which is one of the most picturesque sights I ever saw. The fishermen do it only in the dark with great iron fire baskets at the bows of the boats. They tie the birds' throats to allow of their swallowing only the small fish, and haul them into the boats and make them disgorge the large ones. It is marvelous to see one man manage twelve Cormorants, keep them all busy and keep all their strings from

tangling. We had to see it at two o'clock in the morning and it quite made me think of a summer night on the Grand Canal while we waited in our lantern lighted pleasure boats for the men to come around the bend of the river. A Japanese dinner served in Japanese style in laquer bowls on trays on the floor was most interesting but it gave me the worst indigestion I was ever blessed with which lasted five days and cut me out of the sights of Nara. Saké, soy seaweed, blubber, eel, raw fish, dried fish, tai, (their pet Jap. fish), a kind of custard with nuts and pieces of chickens, bean soup, rice, beef cooked in soy, (a kind of mayonnaise) bad little cakey candy, barley water, colorless tea, peaches and apples, pickles covered with a sort of mustard, and Bombay duck were all around each of us in an orderly confusion on the floor and I ate it all quite decently with chop sticks.

We have also undergone the grand tea ceremony "cha-no-yu" which is interesting the first time but infinitesimal in its minute detail and excessively laborious and fatiguing. Each look, movement, and action is studied according to a code and everybody of breeding studies it as part of his education. * *

I am sending you a poster of one of the wrestlers. We saw a match and this is very true to life. They are the only men that wear long hair and they are mounds of flesh weighing 300 to 348 pounds. Worse than Ruben's women or Barnum's fat woman. That apron in the picture is only worn a few minutes, they wrestle in loin clothes. I could write for hours but time is up * * I am hoping to-morrow may bring me a letter, for the Pekin reached Yokahama yesterday.

With much love to you all,

F.

A New Sport for Women.

BASKET BALL has been entirely neglected at Vassar College lately. In fact, a new game has been absorbing all attention, English Hockey. Miss Constance M. K. Applebee, a graduate of the British College of Physical Education, has been at the College during the past week to give lessons in the game. There are many rules which distinguish it from the hockey so dear to the heart of the average small boy, but the main object is the same, to drive the ball through the goal of the opposing eleven. Every afternoon hour has seen a crowd of girls in gymnasium suits rushing over the field in "the circle," wildly hitting with curved sticks at something hidden in the grass. At present their prowess lies chiefly in the direction of digging up turf and damaging neighboring knuckles and ankles, but all pronounce it delightful. Vassar is the first woman's college in the United States to take up the game. Smith is to have it under Miss Applebee next week. It is possible that hereafter at Vassar, tennis and golf may be played merely for training in hockey, as is said to be often the case in England. There, besides the school and college teams, every town has its ladies hockey club. By a process of selection, clubs to represent the counties, the great sections, north, south, and midlands and finally all England, are made up. The games are private, and no professional playing is allowed. Such accounts excite the imaginations of Vassar enthusiasts, and make them long more than ever for the era of inter-collegiate sport for women.

EXCHANGE.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials.

Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

THE STUDENT'S REFERENCE BUREAU.

Organized November, 1897, under the auspices of the Chicago Woman's Club, has for its purpose to meet the needs of students, public speakers and writers, who are either at a distance from libraries or have not the necessary time to collect data for their work. Data for writing papers—Programs—Bibliographies—Books purchased—Questions answered—Statistical information, etc. Circulars sent on application.

Address CHICAGO WOMAN'S CLUB, 203 MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILL.

Woman Who Writes Advice.

A WOMAN there was, and she wrote for the press
(As you or I might do),
And told how to stew many a savory mess,
And told how to stew many a savory mess,
But she never had done it herself, I guess,
(Which none of her readers knew).

Oh, the hours we spent, and the flour we spent,
And the sugar we wasted like sand,
At the hearth of a woman who never had cooked,
(And now we all know that she never could cook)
And did not understand.

A woman there was, and she wrote right fair
(As you or I might do),
How out of a barrel to make a chair,
To be covered with chintz and stuffed with hair,
'T would adorn any parlor and give it an air!
(And we thought the tale was true).

Oh, the days we worked, and the ways we worked,
To hammer, and saw, and hack,
In making a chair in which no one would sit,
A chair in which no one could possibly sit,
Without a crick in his back.

A woman there was, and she had her fun
(Better than you and I),
She wrote about children—of course she had none—
She wrote recipes, and she never tried one
(And she never intended to try).

And it isn't to toil, and it isn't to spoil,
That brims the cup of disgrace—
Its to follow a woman who didn't know meat
(A woman who never had cooked any meat),
But wrote, and was paid to fill space.

—Pearson's Weekly.

Mistress Joy.

A Story of Natchez in 1798.

(From Nashville American.)

IT is something of an achievement for two women, both housekeepers and mothers of families, each with large social and club duties, to conceive the idea of writing a novel, carry the idea into successful execution and sell their brain child to one of the leading publishing houses in America, upon terms rarely offered except to writers of tested ability, all inside of one brief twelvemonth. But that is exactly what two well-known Tennessee women have done, and their friends are still gaping at each other in wonder over such a display of genius and energy.

About a year ago, Mrs. Grace MacGowan Cooke, of Chattanooga, went up to Knoxville to consult with Mrs. Samuel B. McKinney upon certain matters concerning the Tennessee Women's Press Club. Mrs. Cooke was then President, and Mrs. McKinney Vice President of that organization. Mrs. Cooke's visit was very brief—just a day, I believe—and after disposing of the club's business, they naturally got on the subject of literary work. Mrs. McKinney had given Mrs. Cooke the manuscript of one of her short stories, which was too long and which she desired to cut down. In connection, Mrs. Cooke remarked to her hostess: "You are not, by nature, a short story writer, you have the novelist's gift, plainly marked. Why don't you write a novel."

Mrs. Cooke suggested an historical novel, thinking that the romantic vein would suit Mrs. McKinney's style, and believing that the popularity of this form of fiction was still on the up-grade. Mrs. McKinney then outlined to Mrs. Cooke a plot for such a novel that had been suggested to her by certain events in her own family history that she had come upon in getting out papers of admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. McKinney was born on a large plantation, "Oakley," eight miles from Vicksburg, Miss. Much of her girlhood was spent there, and her brother still resides there. Their home

was right in the thick of the siege of Vicksburg, and for a while, part of Gen. Grant's troops were encamped in a magnolia grove of her father's.

Mrs. McKinney had a relative—Tobias Gibson—who was the pioneer Methodist preacher in Mississippi. He and his brother, another preacher, fled from Carolina during the Indian wars. They passed Knoxville in a boat, and went down from Chickasaw Bluffs (Memphis) in a canoe. Struck with the majestic beauty of a high bluff somewhere between Vicksburg and Natchez, all green thick with cane, they paddled in, knelt on shore and dedicated themselves and their work to God, and later built among the cane the first Methodist meeting house erected in the State—then the Province of Mississippi. On first learning of these facts, Mrs. McKinney's imagination was at once tremendously fired, and she planned a novel in a very dreamy rude sort of way, but nothing was ever done with it, and when Mrs. Cooke suggested an historical novel, she gave her these facts—the trip in the canoe, the landing and building of a church in among the cane-brake, with the addition of a daughter for a heroine.

Mrs. Cooke was at once struck with the possibilities of the plot, and urged her to develop it, recurring to it frequently during the day, and finally saying: "I like that plot; let's do it together," and at once, upon the hearty agreement of Mrs. McKinney, Mrs. Cooke suggested developments for the story, creating Jessop (the then supposed hero) on the spot. But it is doubtful if either thought then that the plan would eventuate in less than a year in a novel of 115,000 words, which noted critics have pronounced a great work, and which promises to be a leader in the fall output of new books.

They exchanged ideas for amplifying the bare bit of plot, hatched when they were together, and fragments of scenes, or points in characters, and the psychology of the story began to take shape. Finally, the time for the undertaking was set, and they were to work at Mrs. Cooke's home on Missionary Ridge, thinking to be freer from interruptions there.

They agreed to pursue Mrs. Cooke's usual plan of work and dictate to a stenographer, and they "killed off" six of them, by their unmerciful hours of work; but in three weeks' time succeeded in getting the book in such shape that they could work apart. Two copies were made, and when Mrs. McKinney returned to Knoxville, she took one and Mrs. Cooke kept the other. Then they both set to work and corrected, added, struck out passages or modified things, according to individual judgment. When they were ready to have the final copy made, as they thought, Mrs. McKinney sent her copy to Mrs. Cooke, who put all her marks in Mrs. McKinney's draft, and vice versa. When these corrections conflicted, correspondence ensued until everything was satisfactory.

Then, armed with four type written copies of the book, the two authors went to New York to have the benefit of the criticism of Miss Alice MacGowan, the gifted sister of Mrs. Cooke, who is conceded in New York to be a remarkably able editor and manuscript reader, and who has had a great deal of experience along that line. She is, however, said to be a savage and searching critic of English, and while she admired their story immensely, she said that it needed a year's work on the style to make it worthy of the matter. They had no year to give but fell to work in earnest, and after three weeks of incessant labor, day and night, their stern critic pronounced "Mistress Joy" ready for presentation to the publishers.

The book was promptly and flatteringly accepted, and the authors delayed merely with a view to arranging for serial publication. As they found that this, if in a first class periodical, could not be expected within a year, they finally gave it up, and closed with the offer of the Century Company to bring it out in October upon such terms, as to royalty, as are rarely offered beginners. The publishers illustrate the book and promise a specially attractive cover design.

"Mistress Joy" received nothing but commendation in any office and at the hands of any critic, after the final revision; all agreeing that it reflected great credit upon the two gifted authors and the brilliant editor, under whose stern supervision the

final revision was made. The Century people are enthusiastic, and look for an overwhelming success for it.

As to the story itself, it deals with the early history of Methodism in Mississippi. The little homespun band of Methodists near Natchez, of which Tobias Valentine, father of Joyce Valentine, the heroine and the "Mistress Joy" of the story, is pastor—give a fine contrast to the Spaniards (Mississippi Province was then under Spanish rule); and to the Creole French, when the story moves to New Orleans.

The full title of the book is "Mistress Joy A Story of Natchez in 1798."

The local color is furnished by Mrs. McKinney, who has the most intense love for the home of her childhood and the most perfect appreciation of its pictorial and poetic value. The great river, down which the voyagers come in the opening of the story, runs all through the narrative, and the various descriptions of it are among the most beautiful passages in the book.

The book has many things to commend it. It deals historically with a section of the South never before exploited in any novel. It is an historical novel in which the psychological significance of things is not neglected, and in which the character study is as painstaking as in a problem novel. Then the feature of the little band of Methodists, standing sturdily alone among the cavaliers about them, makes a fine picture. The writers have not gone out of the South for effects.

The weakness of Jessop and the strength of David Batchelor, who proves to be the hero of the story, are well worked out while Sister Longanecker and her daughter Patience furnish some charming comedy scenes. The description of the defense of the house of Tobias Valentine, by its inmates, against an Indian attack, and the tragic death of Manteo, an Indian attache of the Valentine family, is very thrilling; and the superstition of telling the bees of Manteo's death is interesting as bearing on the customs of those remote times.

While "Mistress Joy" was originally written in a short time there has been no lack of hard conscientious labor in bringing it to its present status, and there is no evidence what ever of haste in its construction. Both authors agree that too much cannot be said in recognition of Miss MacGowan's master touch in polishing and correcting, and that her ability as an editor cannot be overestimated.

Mrs. McKinney has not been as long in literary work as Mrs. Cooke, but she has had some successes of which she may be proud. She is fanciful and poetic in intemperament and her style tends towards elaborate, romance, sentiment and word painting.

Mrs. Cooke has written a great many short stories, and has that style to perfection. She is a trenchant writer and especially gifted in colloquy. She promulgates in all her work a wholesome philosophy, and her thorough knowledge of metaphysics enables her to gain wonderful insight into the development of character.

The special gifts of the two writers enabled them to produce a book of unusual power and attractiveness. It is a true, noble uplifting story, and I am sure the public will sustain this private opinion.

ELIZABETH FRY PAGE.

THE Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs has just issued its Year Book for 1901. Among the Committee Reports we find that the Industrial Committee is most active, helping the working women and children. The Library Committee shows that the Georgia women, besides working for Traveling Libraries contribute valuable aid to School Libraries, and that the Federation has a Study Library for the free use of all Club-women. A list of these books is given in full for the benefit of those wishing to consult this Library. One page is given to a list of State Presidents and data showing the number of Club-women in each state. At the end a strong plea is made in behalf of the model country school, by asking the Club-women to raise \$1,000. The Georgia Club-women are actively working in all their departments and they are 6,000 strong.

"My Lord, a Prize, a Prize!"—Henry VI.

Two novel features in book publishing have been introduced by Messrs. Small, Maynard & Company. The first of these is in connection with a new novel, published September 21, entitled *Sylvia: The Story of an American Countess*, which is the first book of a young Boston authoress, Miss Evalyn Emerson. The book is said to be a charming love-story, pure and tender in its tone, and with a unique plot. It is a novel of the present day, the scene being laid in Venice, on the Riveiera, and in Southern California. The paradoxical sub-title is justified by the heroine's birth and ancestry. The daughter of an Italian nobleman and heiress to his title, she is a native of America, and usually at home in California or in Italy, where she is distinguished by the deserved characterization of "the most beautiful women in Europe."

From this characterisation the publishers have been led to offer "a prize of \$500 on Sylvia's head." They have invited Albert D. Blashfield, Carle J. Blenner, J. Wells Champney, Howard Chandler Christy, Louise Cox, John Elliott, Joseph Decamp, C. Allen Gilbert, Albert Herter, Henry Hutt, Alice Barber Stephens, and A. B. Wenzell, twelve artists known for their types of beautiful women, to make a drawing expression his or her idea of the charming heroine. Their pictures are all reproduced as illustrations in the book. Each reader is invited to choose from among the pictures the one which, in his judgment is the best conception of the heroine, and to indicate, on a slip furnished with the book, the order in which he thinks all the others should rank. The person whose list comes nearest to the choice of the majority will receive a prize of \$500.

The other new plan is also a guessing contest. One which will depend upon the perception of the reader and their familiarity with the work of the leading writers of fiction of to-day, and a prize of one thousand dollars is offered to be divided among the persons who can successfully name the authors of twelve anonymous stories written by twelve leading American authors. The book which will contain these twelve stories is not a mere scrap-book of twelve stories, but a coherent collection of tales written for this distinct purpose, and drawing its title, *A House Party*, from the fact that the stories are told at a house party after dinner by the guests assembled in the library.

The idea was originally suggested by a casual discussion of the earmarks of authorship. What is it that distinguishes one writer from another? Is it style or a difference in the point of view? Is it that one author confines himself or herself to a particular locality, or that each has been wont to choose a certain type of hero? Would it be possible to tell who wrote this story or that if the author's name were suppressed?

These are some of the questions that came up, and they are such interesting questions that Small, Maynard & Company determined to submit them to the reading public. Invitations to take part in the "House Party" were extended to Thomas Bailey Aldrich, John Kendrick Bangs, George W. Cable, Winston Churchill, F. Marion Crawford, Margaret Deland, Paul Leicester Ford, John Fox, Jr., Hamlin Garland, Robert Grant, Joel Chandler Harris, Mrs. Burton Harrison, W. D. Howells, Sarah Orne Jewett, Thomas Nelson Page, Charles G. D. Roberts, Bertha Runkle, F. Hopkinson Smith, Frank R. Stockton, Ruth McEnery Stuart, Booth Tarkington, Octave Thanet, Mark Twain, Mary E. Wilkins, and Owen Wister, certainly a company hard to surpass for distinction or diversity.

Each was asked to contribute one story of about 8,000 words to a collection which would be printed without anything to indicate who was the author of a single story. Twelve of the distinguished authors named accepted the invitation and have contributed stories of notable excellence. In order to give the widest opportunity to the public to guess upon the authorship of the stories, the publishers have arranged to syndicate the publication of the stories among a limited number of the most widely circulated newspapers of the country before issuing the matter in book form. The public can register their opinions upon coupons issued by the newspapers which have the serial rights, or upon a slip which will be furnished to each purchaser of the book.

A Little Nonsense.

"A little nonsense now and then,
Is relished by the wisest men."

DO we sometimes take life too hard? While all our thoughts and efforts should not be directed to gather only the rose-buds, still practical work-a-day people often take the duties and routine of daily life too seriously—they do not get all the brightness and undercurrent of mirth that may be found in the most ordinary and prosaic surroundings, and which would brighten the "grind" to many a "Mr. Manteline."

The conscientious performance of duty, they think a service well done, but there is an obligation also for them to *enjoy* what is agreeable in humanity, "the harmony of mind and body, intellect and animal spirits," the knowledge and appreciation of which is best attained by an occasional break from the monotonous discharge of duties, or even a relaxation from intense intellectual pursuits. Who has not known the brightening power of an unexpected laugh! or a good joke even on ourselves can make life look more cheerful for the time; while familiar banter, in a kindly spirit, in the family circle, will lessen many a care or toil; while the scriptural injunction says: a "merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Leigh Hunt says: "There is no greater mistake in the world than the looking upon every sort of nonsense as want of sense." We can all, perhaps, recall the enjoyment of an intercourse thoroughly ridiculous, where wit and humor were sharpened and stimulated, and the wildest rattlings of men of sense consisted of finding *something* in *nothing*, and of their quick and original succession of ideas.

In the present literature of the day, how seldom do we come across that "touch of nature," kin to genuine wit or oddity. Professional humorists may abound, broad farce, caricature, and sarcasm, indulge in deep or shallow witticisms; but for a delicate perception of the "mere happenings of humor," or an intellectual appreciation of a good thing! in general, we fail to recognize them in current literature or conversation. We need to see, and write more brightly and lightly of the pleasantries and comedy of daily life; and without over-strained or grotesque effort transcribe our own joy and cheerfulness for the pleasure of others.

Sorrow and troubles are around us always, but unconsciously, often a more elastic nature, looking upon the brighter side, may, by a laughing word or jest, rouse and divert most morbid thoughts, or harassing perplexities.

Some one has said he felt a great affection for a book that had made him laugh. What a debt of love we owe to Dickens, and Lever, and Mark Twain, and "Josiah Allen's Wife" too, has chased away many a fit of the blues.

Hunt again defines the difference between nonsense not worth talking, and nonsense worth it, as simply this: "The former is the result of a want of ideas; the latter, of a superabundance of them." It is not necessary always to have an inspiring subject.

Dean Swift could be eloquent over a broom stick. But a quick and lively fancy, keen sense of the ridiculous, and a good temper, to bear to know "ourselves as others see us," will add a new charm and variety to existence, and enliven the most tiresome routine of service, or uninteresting of discourses. So bear in mind again that—

"A little nonsense now and then
Is relished by the wisest men."

A. E. TUPPER.

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N. B.—Lovers of the Antique should embrace this Opportunity and Secure these Rare Old Bits, as Colonial Antiques are almost extinct.

South Carolina Division United Daughters of the Confederacy.

DEAR EDITOR:

The South Carolina Daughters of the Confederacy will meet in convention on the 27th and 28th of November, at Sumter, to which hospitable town they were invited by the Dick Anderson Chapter, and various other organizations of dignified, civil and military sort.

The outlook promises enjoyment and interest; for the State organization has effected honorable record, activity and returns for labor.

In 1900, South Carolina was the third in the list of States as to the amount sent in to the great Monument Fund, and the first which contributed from its State treasury, besides the contributions by Chapters.

Six Chapters have been admitted in two years of the present administration.

A noble apartment was granted by the Legislature in response to a petition made jointly by Wade Hampton Chapter and the State Division; negotiations being earnestly made by the President and Vice-President representing the State. The Legislature gave into the care of Wade Hampton Chapter the flags of two wars. The Mexican and Confederate Wars.

As soon as the announcement was made public through the press that South Carolina was in possession of the record and police room, innumerable relics were sent to it, either as loans or gifts. The present State President is Wade Hampton Chapter's Chairman of the Room Committee, and has subdivided the twenty-two members into committees, each in charge of some department. One specially important being of manuscript documents, historical data, etc., which will give information on call.

At Sumter, the Committee on revising the State Constitution will recommend against a third term for President. All Chapters should be considering the next President.

Mr. D. H. Means, Chairman of the Committee of the Sons of Veterans, will submit to the Convention a plan endorsed by the two Conventions of Veterans and Sons in May. The President of D. C. deemed it wise to invite the Chairman to address the Daughters, showing the plan by which they might effect the rescuing from neglect and oblivion the records of many men who were killed before the rolls of our soldiers were begun. The co-operation of the women, by committees in townships, could serve good purpose in co-operation with the committees of the men's organizations.

Two able committees of our D. C. will present reports which will reach into the spiritual depths of the labours and designs of the State's Daughters. They will show that we are not exhausting ourselves on surface work, but are searching into the depths of our country's heart.

At Wilmington there will probably be discussion upon the U. D. C. Committee requirements in giving out the Crosses of Honour. The present rules are not satisfactory in this State, and I am told one State "just wouldn't have them." Another point settled with the Convention at Montgomery is not considered an advantage, as it casts off the State President's vote, unless she casts it in person.

It is thought that the States' prerogative and advantage would be maintained rather by the President or her selected representative, voting all the Chapters' votes of her State not otherwise provided for, to ensure the State's whole voice in elections and voting out money. It is not impossible to get around to a ring of managers.

With the ardent hope that our delegates will "think of these things," and will put their thoughts into words,

I am truly yours,

MRS. THOMAS TAYLOR,
President S. C. Daughters of the Confederacy.

WHAT is a baby? The prince of wails; an inhabitant of Lapland; the morning caller, noonday crawler, midnight brawler; the only precious possession that never excites envy; a key that opens the heart of all classes, the rich and poor alike, in all countries; a stranger with unspeakable cheek, that enters a house without a stitch to his back, and is received with open arms by every one. LONDON TID BITS.

Book Reviews.

"BLANNERHASSETT" by Chas. F. Pidgin is one of the most exciting and dramatic novels of the day. The author has chosen for his theme that always interesting episode in American History, the rivalry of Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton. There is a wide field for romance, plotting and adventure and Mr. Pidgin keeps his reader in a state of wrapped attention. "Richard Hill," with its political coterie, "Blannerhassett Island" with its romantic surroundings, and unique host and hostess, "The Oaks" with its Southern atmosphere, and simple plantation life are all most vividly pictured. The duel is most dramatic and "Theodosia Burr's experiences with the Pirate (altho' not true to history according to family tradition) are fascinatingly exciting. The author is an ardent admirer of that ambitious, daring statesman Aaron Burr and shows the provocation of his political enemies and makes those of us who stood by him in history still firmer friends. The style is so suggestive and so vivid that we feel we are dealing entirely with events as they happened, and the atmosphere and back ground so well presented that we are living with the characters.

"Blannerhassett" is truly a romance of real life, a history of plots, and a novel of ambition and adventure. The illustrations by Chas. H. Stephens add considerably to its interest. The type is unusually good which is an aid to those who have to read at night. (Cloth 1.50. C. M. Clark Publishing Co., Boston 1901.)

"The Tory Lover" Sarah Orne Jewett gives us another one of those ever popular historical romances. The time is that of the American Revolution and that fascinating individual, Captain Paul Jones appears as one of the chief characters. The constant trials of the Tories and the Patriots are feelingly told and we are made to see good in both parties. "Roger Wallingford" is well drawn and at times we wonder whether he can be true to his love and his country with so many obstacles to overcome. "Mary Hamilton" is a high noble type of woman. We must confess tho' that we do not feel the atmosphere of New England in connection with these characters, and the author seems to attempt to bring out the point of similarity of life among the Colonies, making us feel that social customs in New England were no different from those in Virginia. The story is full of true sentiment and exciting incidents and hold our attention to the very end. The illustrations are very attractive, especially the frontispiece of "Mary Hamilton" and the binding is in perfect taste. (Cloth \$1.50 Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass. 1901.)

A book that will be read with interest by all good citizens, men and women, is "The Improvement of Towns and Cities," by Charles Mulford Robinson. The author has carefully studied the "City Beautiful" in Europe and America and presents many practical suggestions. In the foreword he gives a list of the societies that are especially interested in this work for the benefit of those who wish to learn new methods. Mr. Robinson shows how to combine the useful with the beautiful. He makes good suggestions as to naming streets, advising the use of such names as will preserve local history rather than numbers and such monotonous names as Main and Market. He recommends always making good roads and then keeping them clean. He makes practical use of modern methods and ideas and claims that numerous electric and telegraphic wires and trolley poles do not mean progress. He gives much credit to the work Club-women have been doing in this direction and all Village Department Societies and Civic Clubs would be greatly helped and stimulated by consulting this most interesting and instructive book. (Cloth \$1.25, G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York, 1901.)

"LORDS OF THE NORTH" by A. C. Lautis a stirring account of the days when the North West Company and the Hudson Bay Company were rivals for the same territory. Plots and counter-plots, Indians and Trappers, keep our interest up. We learn something of what days must have meant to the women, and our sympathies are with "Eric Hamilton" during his search for his wife, stolen from him by the Indian, Le Grand Diable.

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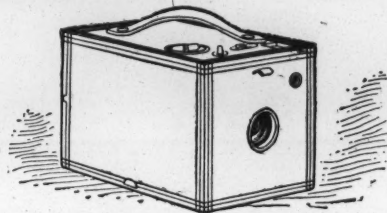
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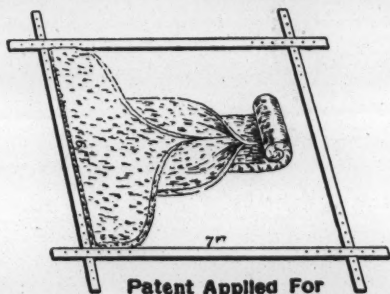
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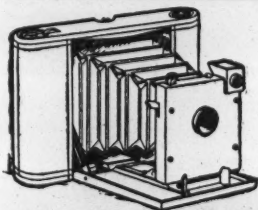
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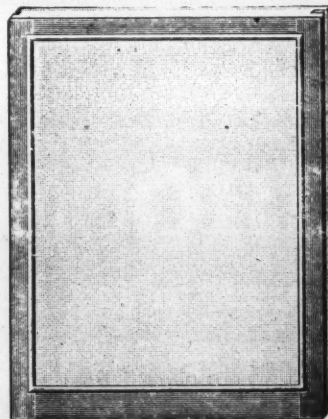
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